

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 05896

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FR, SENV
SUBJECT: GOF CONTINUES TO WIDEN SCOPE OF ITS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

1. AMONG 41 MEASURES ANNOUNCED TO SIMPLIFY THE LIFE
OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE, AFTER THE 15 FEBRUARY COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS MEETING AND LESS THAN A MONTH FROM THE
ELECTIONS TO FRANCE'S PARLIAMENT, WAS THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
QUALITY OF LIFE.

THE NEW COMMITTEE IS TO BE PRESIDED OVER - OFFICIALLY

AT LEAST - BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND IS COMPOSED OF
INTERESTED (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED) MINISTERS.

2. NAMED AS "DELEGUE DE LA QUALITY DE LA VIE" IS
JEAN-RANCOIS SAGLIO, DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU FOR THE
PREVENTION OF POLLUTIONS AND NUISANCES, IN THE MINISTRY
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OF CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT. THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE
OF THIS MOVE IS TO ADD TO ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN
AGAINST EVERY KIND OF POLLUTION AND TO FAVOR THE
PROTECTION OF NATURE. FURTHER STEPS WILL GIVE MORE
TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE, BOTH URBAN AND RURAL;
REDUCE INEQUALITY IN ACCESS TO LEISURE, PROTECT THE
NATURAL HERITAGE, AND DEVELOP ASSOCIATIVE LIFE, ACCORD-

ING TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. THE GOF POLICY IS THUS TO MOVE FROM THE PREVENTIVE AND NEGATIVE GOALS OF REDUCING POLLUTION, TO THE MORE POSITIVE ONES OF ENRICHING AS MANY LIVES AS POSSIBLE. THIS, OUR SOURCES TELL US, IS BEHIND THE ADOPTION OF THE TERM "QUALITY OF LIFE", AS OPPOSED TO THE MORE PROSAIC "ENVIRONMENT."

3. SAGLIO, WHO IS TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED FOR MANY YEARS WITH FRANCE'S ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS. HE DIRECTED A FRENCH AGENCY FOR THE RHINE-MEUSE RIVER BASIN FROM 1966 TO 1969 AND HAS ALSO WORKED IN THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC FROM 1969-1973 UNDER POMPIDOU. SAGLIO HAS HAD HIS PRESENT POSITION SINCE 1973. HE IS CHARACTERIZED AS A GAULLIST BY GOF OFFICIALS WHO KNOW HIM WELL. ONE OF OUR SOURCES DOUBTED THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE BOTH JOBS ADEQUATELY, HE IS TO KEEP THEM BOTH FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST. IT WAS THIS SOURCE'S VIEW THAT SAGLIO WAS GIVEN THESE RESPONSIBILITIES AT LEAST PARTIALLY BECAUSE GISCARD MISTRUSTED HIS GAULLIST ENVIRONMENT OFFICIAL AND WANTED HIM IN A POSITION WHERE HE COULD BE MORE CLOSELY OBSERVED.
HARTMAN

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